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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/915,428	07/26/2001	Masayuki Kawata	S004-4342	7386

7590 02/13/2003

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EXAMINER

DUONG, THOI V

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2871

DATE MAILED: 02/13/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/915,428		Applicant(s) KAWATA, MASAYUKI	
	Examiner Thoi V Duong		Art Unit 2871	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 03 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 26 July 2001.

2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.

3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 ~~is~~ are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 ~~is~~ are rejected.

7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.

If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:

1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).

a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.

4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.

5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in-

(1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effect under this subsection of a national application published under section 122(b) only if the international application designating the United States was published under Article 21(2)(a) of such treaty in the English language; or

(2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that a patent shall not be deemed filed in the United States for the purposes of this subsection based on the filing of an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a).

2. Claims 1, 3, 4 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Kikuchi (JP 2000-293117).

As shown in Fig. 3, Kikuchi discloses a display device comprising:

a plural of elongated supporting member 301b having grooves being formed in a bent state on a side, and

a film liquid crystal device 302 being held by the supporting members such that both side edges of the film liquid crystal device are fit in the grooves,

wherein the supporting member is attached to an attaching portion provided in a case 304 such that the film liquid crystal device becomes non-contact;

wherein the supporting members are a plural of legs 301a for supporting parts of the film liquid crystal apparatus; and

wherein the supporting members are provided a plural of layers of grooves on both sides of the device.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kikuchi (JP 2000-293117) in view of Nagamura et al. (USPN 6,292,239 B1).

Kikuchi discloses a liquid crystal display that is basically the same as that recited in claim 2 except that the supporting members are not provided with a plural of grooves for holding an illumination panel. As shown in Fig. 7, Nagamura discloses a liquid crystal display 1 comprising a supporting member 17 having a plural of grooves for holding a liquid crystal panel 2 and an illumination panel BU in a frame. Nakaguma teaches that the illumination panel is free from an accidental detachment from the frame by securely holding it in place (col. 3, lines 19-33). Thus, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the liquid crystal display of Kikuchi with the teaching of Nagaruma by having the supporting member provided with a plural of grooves for securely holding an illumination panel so as to prevent the panel from an accidental detachment as well as to obtain a clearly uniform image for the display.

5. Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kikuchi (JP 2000-293117) in view of Hibino (JP361160725A).

Kikuchi discloses a liquid crystal display that is basically the same as that recited in claim 6 except for an upper polarizing plate being fit separately from the liquid crystal device in a groove above the groove in which the film liquid crystal device is fit. As shown in Fig.1, Hibino discloses a liquid crystal display comprising an upper polarizing plate 5 disposed separately in a groove 4 on top of a liquid crystal panel 3 for fixing the polarizing plate accurately so as to settle the direction of the polarization axis and prevent the display from the generation of interference fringes (see Abstract). Thus, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the liquid crystal display of Kikuchi with the teaching of Yamamoto by having the supporting members provided with a plural of grooves in which an upper polarizing plate of the film liquid crystal device is fit separately from the film liquid crystal device above the groove in which the film liquid crystal device is fit so as to stabilize the display contrast.

Conclusion

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thoi V. Duong whose telephone number is (703) 308-3171. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robert Kim, can be reached at (703) 305-3492.


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